



Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

**FREQUENTLY USED
PHONE NUMBERS**

Emergency Services
TPD & TFD
DIAL 911

Permits 791-5550
Housing Assistance
791-4739

TCC - 791-5522

Code Enforcement &
Graffiti removal
792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick up &
Environmental
Services 791-3171

Transportation &
Street Maintenance
- 791-3154

Tucson Water
Billing - 791-3242
Public Info. - 791-4331

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City of Tucson

Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 6

Nov/Dec 2011

A LETTER FROM COUNCILMEMBER FIMBRES

Dear Friends:

A lot has happened in this past month in Ward 5 and the City of Tucson. From the city election, through the Thanksgiving Holiday to the Ward 5 Tucson Means Business Forum held on November 30, it has been a time of work and progress.

TUCSON VOTERS DECIDE

Tucsonans made their decision on who they wanted to be the next person to lead their city as Mayor, as well as decided who would serve as the Councilmembers for Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 4.

Congratulations to Jonathan Rothschild, who will be Tucson's next Mayor, taking office on Monday, December 5.

Congratulations to Regina Romero and Shirley Scott, who will continue to serve as the Councilmembers for Ward 1 and Ward 4 respectively. Paul Cunningham was elected to a full term in office. He had been appointed to the Council in April 2010, and is the first individual appointed to the Council, to win a term in their own right.

VOTE BY MAIL

This was the first election conducted solely through an all vote-by-mail process.

My office brought this proposal to the Mayor and Council for consideration. In April of this year, the Mayor and Council discussed a proposal to change the hybrid system (voting by mail and polling place) of casting ballots in a city election to an all-mail ballot process. During these discussions, one of the points that I brought up was to have more people participate in the process by casting their votes.

In addition, the potential question of reducing costs, in these hard economic times, through less poll workers, renting of voting equipment and locations, were other factors on why this proposal was brought forward. This proposal was approved by a 5 to 2 vote.

The primary election, held August 31st, showed that 44,507 ballots were cast for candidates listed on the ballot for Mayor and for the Council seats for Wards 1, 2 and 4 respectively.

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Ward 5 Council
Office Staff

Executive Assistant
Eileen S. Contreras

Council Aides
Melinda Jacobs
Mark Kerr
John Ferra



Help those who are in need. Give to the Community food Bank. For more information, call 520-622-0525

This was more than the ballots cast in the 2007 and 2009 primaries combined, and was the most votes cast in a primary election since 1999, when 39,365 ballots were cast with contested primary races for both major political parties.

For this general election, 85,340 people cast ballots. In 2009, 74,168 people voted; in 2003, 77,857 people voted; and in 1999, 86,180 people voted. In the 1999 election, in addition to the four political contests, Tucson voters considered an initiative dealing with CAP water.

So how did the vote-by-mail system compare to the hybrid voting process (voting areas and the permanent early voting list (PEVL)? The numbers from the 2009 and 2011 election process show an increase in participation.

Ballots Cast	2009	2011	Increase	%
Ward 1	9272	11667	2495	+26.9%
Ward 2	20211	22025	1814	+8.9%
Ward 3	8908	10448	1540	+17.2%
Ward 4	15546	18039	2493	+16.0%
Ward 5	5853	7884	2031	+34.7%
Ward 6	14378	15294	916	+6.4%

This election showed that an all vote-by-mail process is a good start to get more people active, involved and casting their votes, and speaks for this system to continue to be used for future City elections.

MAYOR BOB WALKUP

For the past two years, I have had the opportunity to work with Bob on many projects as the Ward 5 Councilmember for my Ward, and as Vice Mayor for our City. The door to his office has always been open and I appreciated his advice, his thoughts and his friendship.

Now, Bob and Beth will be hitting the road in that VW Van he has purchased and will travel the country when he leaves office Dec. 5. I will miss him as our Mayor, as well as the first lady, Beth.

Bob Walkup may be leaving office but he won't be leaving Tucson. I continue look forward to working with him on other projects involving the Tucson-Mexico Task Force, as well as the Global Economic Development District, just to name two.

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CITY OF TUCSON GOVERNMENT TRANSITION

During this calendar year, more than 292 individuals will leave their employment with the City of Tucson, through the End of Service, retirement program, through December 31st.

Many of these employees were either department directors, deputy directors, or in other positions, such as the Zoning Examiner.

With numerous retirements and separations throughout the City, particularly at the executive level, the Human Resources Department and staff from other departments have been working to address resultant vacancies through a series of recruitments.

The Transportation Director, the Human Resources Director, the Tucson Water Director, the Information Technology Director, the Housing and Community Development Deputy Director, as well as supervisors and key employee positions are becoming vacant and is something our City Manager and new Mayor and Council will have to deal with.

My office has been staying on top of this to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and that current services are not disrupted due to personnel changes.

TUCSON MEANS BUSINESS FORUM A SUCCESS

More than 80 people were in attendance for the Ward 5 Tucson Means Business Forum, held November 30, at the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps Center. To all those who were present, my thanks for your attendance and participation.

This forum provided opportunities to current business owners who want to do business with the City of Tucson and those aspiring owners who want to start their business in the Old Pueblo.

City of Tucson Department Directors and partners made presentations, and answered questions on: Small Business Enterprise benefits and certification; Becoming a vendor in the City of Tucson Procurement System; Green business certification and benefits; Business licensing and fees; Permitting, sign codes and the new, streamlined, Certificate of Occupancy process.

The Pima County Health Department, Pima County One Stop, the Microbusiness Advancement Center (MAC), the Small Business Administration, as well as the Business Development Finance Corporation, the Community Reinvestment Fund and Project PPEP, were present to answer any questions and provide information.

As from previous meetings, a Ward 5 update on projects and developments and changes to other city business policies was given at this forum.

A big thank you goes to Carl Rosborough, Steve Ramirez and the staff of Fred G. Acosta Job Corps for being such gracious hosts for this forum as well as providing refreshments.

I also want to thank our City Manager, Richard Miranda, for participating in the forum and for helping to get our city through these tough economic times.

All the city staff present: Ernie Duarte – Planning and Development Services (PDSD), Ellen Hitchings – Business Licensing and Finance, Liana Perez – Equal Employment Opportunity Programs, Mark Neihart – Procurement, Byron Howard – City Manager's Office, Leslie

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Ethen – Conservation & Sustainable Development, Jennifer Hackman – City Manager's Office, who coordinated the event.

My staff: Eileen Contreras, John Ferra, Melinda Jacobs and Mark Kerr, for their work on this forum, as well as getting the food and refreshments from our sponsors, Jim Mize with Pima County One Stop, Lonnie Anderson with the Pima County Health Department, Jerone Davis with Microbusiness Advancement Center, Gabriel Gomez with the Business Development Finance Corporation, Stephan Hart with the Small Business Administration, Frank Ballesteros with the Community Reinvestment Fund and Miguel Zazueta from Project PPEP for their participation at the forum.

In addition, my appreciation goes to Chick-Fil-A, Costco and the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps for providing the food and refreshments.

As per the December 2010, issue, an update on what your Ward 5 Councilmember and office have accomplished, will be reported on in the December 2011 upcoming newsletter.

ROADWORK UPDATE

Due to changing weather conditions, the City of Tucson Department of Transportation will temporarily suspend its in-house chip and fog sealing programs. The residential street paving program began in early October 2011 and consisted of crack sealing, pothole filling, chip sealing and fog sealing five different neighborhoods.

Chip sealing is greatly affected by the weather and can only be performed during certain temperatures. Chip sealing should be applied when the pavement temperature is at least 70 degrees and the air temperature is 50 degrees and rising. Transportation Director Jim Glock stated that the residential street paving program will commence next spring when weather conditions are optimal.

Thanks to their persistence and effort, the Cherry Avenue Neighborhood Association, Hawk crosswalk and light signal was installed and working at Campbell and Bantam. Congratulations to the Cherry Avenue neighbors!

BIKE IN A BOX

Lugo Charities, 3rd Annual Bike In A Box event to benefit under-privileged children with a new bicycle and safety helmet will occur on December 18, 2011.

However, in order to purchase the 500 bicycles, we need to raise \$25,000.00. Your contributions are tax deductible so please consider sponsoring bicycles for this worth cause.

For information on this year's event, please visit their web site at LugoCharities.com.

WALMART UPDATE

The final permits have been obtained by Wal-Mart and the 156,000 square foot super center will begin construction in early 2012.

When completed, this Wal-Mart will employ 400 people.

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BRIDGES PROJECT UPDATE

The roadwork being done at Park and the intersection of 36th is being done by the developers of the Bridges Project. A \$5 million road work and landscape project, is being done by Eagle Rock Construction of Tucson, and is employing 100 people.

The developers said this project is ahead of schedule and will be completed in January of 2012.

CAID INDUSTRIES

CAID Industries has been in Tucson and in Ward 5, since 1947. Located at 2275 East Ganley, CAID's facilities include 20 acres of fenced-in yard and over 150,000 square feet of office and production facilities.

CAID has forged a leadership role in the metal fabrication industry in the Southwest and their company's experience and reputation reach as far as Europe, South America and beyond.

CAID is now expanding their business, which will result in 30 additional jobs. Congratulations to CAID, an employee owned company!

HOLIDAY TIPS

The holidays are a time to celebrate, give thanks, and reflect. They are also a time to pay special attention to your health. Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips:

Wash your hands often. Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product.

Watch the kids. Children are at high risk for injuries that can lead to death or disability. Keep a watchful eye on your kids when they're eating and playing.

Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, choking hazards (like coins and hard candy), and other objects out of kids' reach.

Learn how to provide early treatment for children who are choking. Make sure toys are used properly.

Prevent injuries. Injuries can occur anywhere and some often occur around the holidays. Use step stools instead of furniture when hanging decorations. Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Wear a bicycle helmet to help prevent head injuries.

Most residential fires occur during the winter months. Keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees, and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves, or candles unattended.

Don't use generators, grills, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning devices inside your home or garage. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Test them once a month, and replace batteries twice a year.

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DUI TASK FORCE



The holidays are a time of celebration and for the members of the Southern Arizona DUI task force, it's a time to crack down on impaired driving. The Southern Arizona DUI task force has a sobering message.

As the Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (2003-2009), we worked hard on keeping our good citizens safe – showing an 18% reduction in fatalities and injuries in our state. The programs I put in place are still working.

IN OTHER NEWS

Tucson's Community Food Bank needs our donations of food, either cans or perishables or financial donations. As we have all read, they were not able to make food boxes for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

To donate, go online to communityfoodbank.com or call 622-0525.

People can also come to our office, 4300 South Park, to drop off canned goods as well.

The Salvation Army of Tucson is also in need of food and financial donations. For more information, call the Salvation Army, 795-9671 or go online to thesalvationarmytucson.org.

Congratulations to Barrio Santa Rosa for being named to the National Historic Registry.

Barrio San Antonio recently celebrated the expansion and updating of their neighborhood park, thanks to collaboration through the City and Pima County.

LASTLY

When you are out and about, with family or friends, enjoying this holiday season remember our police officers and firefighters who will be working 24-7 to make our city a safer place for all.

Peace be with you all this Holiday Season, Be Safe, when driving ensure you are buckled up and your small children are in a car seat or booster seat and never try to drive if you have been drinking. Use a designated driver.

I hope you and your family are having a safe and wonderful Holiday Season.

Peace,

Your Ward Five Councilmember.